

Y O U N G W O R K E R

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Special ANTI-WAR Issue

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Fight Against the Roosevelt War Plans

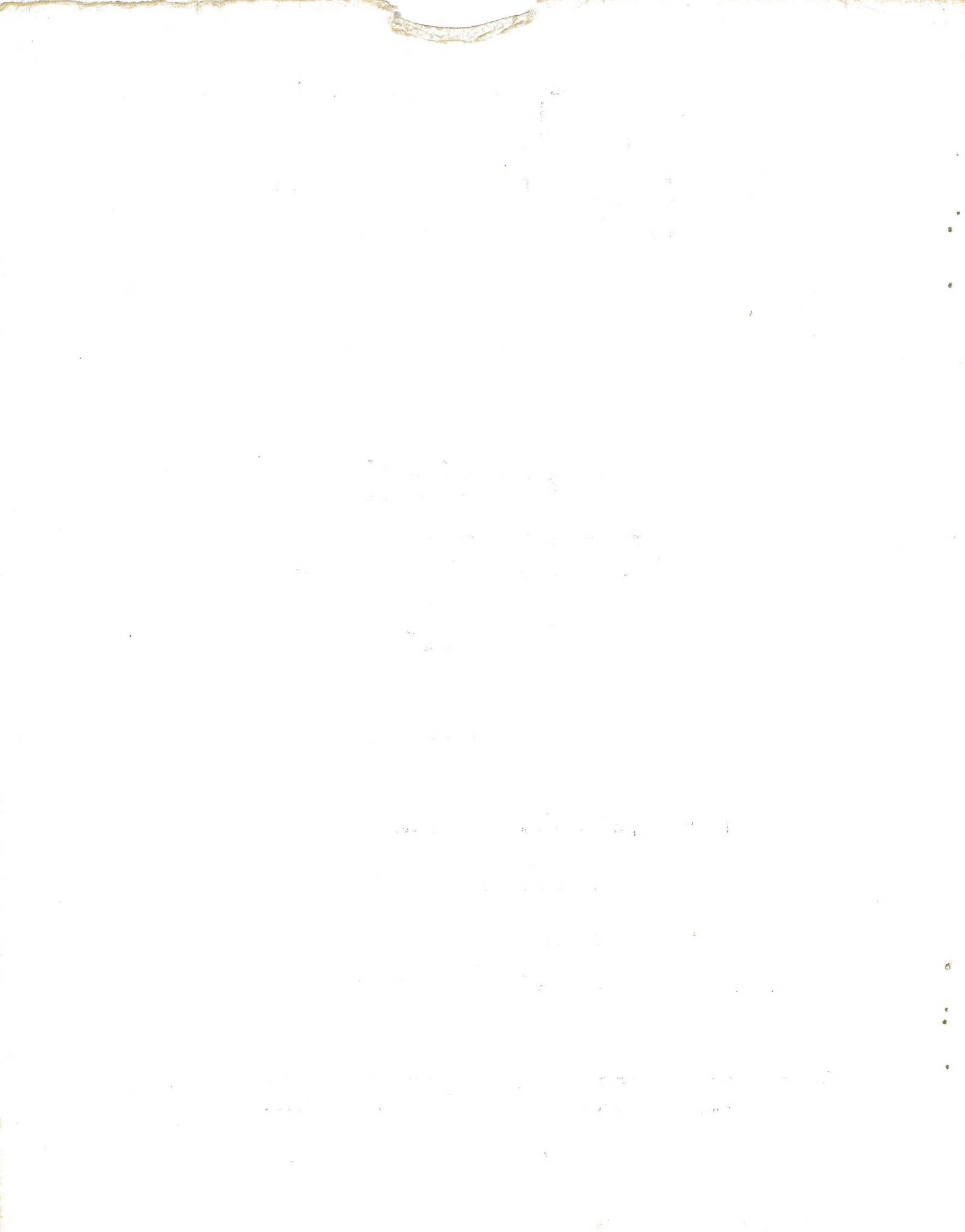
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**Celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of
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Volume 1

November, 1939

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SPECIAL ANTI-WAR ISSUE



REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AGAINST WAR

We publish below Points 4 and 5 of the Fourteen Point programmatic Declaration of the Provisional INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION which we have endorsed. These two points present a revolutionary Marxian position on the defense of the Soviet Union, and revolutionary defeatism to turn the imperialist war into civil war.

REVOLUTIONARY DEFEATISM

"The Marxian organization fights for the class war against capitalism, and against all imperialist wars, no matter which nations appear to be the "aggressors" or the "defenders;" no matter whether allied or not allied with the Soviet Union; no matter whether a bourgeois "democracy" or a fascist state. In an imperialist war Marxists on both sides must work through revolutionary class action for the military defeat of their "own" army and bourgeoisie during the war time, even if this means the temporary "victory" of the "enemy" bourgeoisie. Only on the basis of the disruption of the bourgeois state and apparatus by the strategy of revolutionary defeatism can the proletariat, under the guidance of its vanguard, turn the imperialist war of the capitalist brigands into a civil war of the proletariat to smash the whole capitalist system."

THE USSR AND THE EXTENSION OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

"The Dictatorship of the Proletariat still remains in the Soviet Union although in warped form, with a rising bourgeois stratum within the bureaucracy, with enormous inroads of private property, and the liquidation of almost all of the proletarian state forms, Soviets, Workers Militias, etc. The Stalinist bureaucracy is not a separate class. Stalinism today is a social reformist force resting on the material base of the October Revolution and its property relations, objectively aiding the restoration of capitalist rule in the Soviet Union and counter-revolution on a world scale. The Theoretical base of Stalinism is the nationalist concept of Socialism in one Country. Marxists will support the Soviet Union no matter in what kind of a war the USSR is involved. But such support and defense of the USSR can be accomplished only on the revolutionary line of the extension of the October Revolution and the re-establishment within the Soviet Union of full workers democracy and the soviets, a political revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy. The Soviet Union can be defended only by a struggle against world imperialism and its Stalinist and other agents within the Soviet Union. Revolutionists give their political and material aid within the Soviet Union only to the Marxian Fourth Internationalists and to those mass organs, Soviets, workers Militias, trade unions, etc., in which the masses are able to carry out independent working class action.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST WORLD IMPERIALISM AND ITS STALINIST AND OTHER AGENTS! ----- TURN THE IMPERIALIST WAR INTO A CIVIL WAR BY WORKING FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY DEFEAT OF YOUR "OWN" BOSS CLASS AND ITS ARMED FORCES! ----- PEACE IS ONLY POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM!

U.S. BOSSSES PREPARE FOR WAR

With the guns roaring in Europe so that the boasses may again be able for the FOURTH time to divide the world in the interests of their profit, the young workers here in America are vitally concerned with the question of whether the United States will enter. Already the tremendous propaganda machine of the boss class is having its effect. "We've got to save democracy against Hitler," some youth are saying. And others chime in, "Hell, we ain't got anything now; if we go to war we can either get good jobs at high wages or at least we'll be out fighting, better than standing around without a job." There are other arguments, and variations of these two; but we want to deal with these as evidence of the lying propaganda of the capitalists to trap the youth into again fighting for the profits of Wall Street.

How "Democracy" Gave Birth to Fascism -- Or Dictatorship against Dictatorship

In the first place those of us who are being trapped into wanting to fighg for democracy against Hitler should remember that our fathers did the same thing in 1917. They fought for democracy against Kaiser-dom. They "won." The Kaiser abdicated; the German bosses remained in control while the American, French and English bosses proceeded to take away all their colonies, etc., but at the same time gave them plenty of help against the workers' revolution of 1919 and 1923. Britain and the United States poured millions of dollars into Germany in order to bolster up the dying capitalist system there; and when this did not suffice to stem the tide of the workers who were pressing for workers revolution again, in 1932-33, the American and British bosses, together with the German exploiters, poured plenty of money into Hitler's hands and urged him to take power against the working class. He did; and now in the interests of his German capitalist masters he is trying to steal back what England, America and France stole from Germany in the last war.

So -- the bosses want us to fighg against Hitler but they don't tell us that they helped put him there. But let's look at the other side of the picture -- what about this "democracy?" Ask anybody in England or France how much "democracy" they have in this war against Hitler; and they will tell you (provided they won't be shot for treason) that the "great democrats," Chamberlain and Daladier, have crushed all democratic rights with greater speed and efficiency than Hitler did in 1933! Press censored; radio censored; mail censored; arrests without warrants; soldiers can enter homes at any time; all working class organizations who oppose imperialist war illegalized; all opposition to the war termed treason and punishable by a firing squad. That is the "Democracy" of Britain and France in their war against "dictatorship." And that is precisely what Roosevelt and the American bosses are planning for us here with their Dies Committee, American Legion and other bodies already yelling for the outlawing of all revolutionary organizations, as the FIRST STEP toward the crushing of all democratic rights of the WHOLE WORKING CLASS. For, in order to carry on their imperialist war for the redivision of the world to "save" their rotten profit system, the bosses turn to OPEN military dicta-

tership and fascism instead of the CONCEALED (but just as bloody) dictatorship of "democracy."

The Democracy of \$12 per Week - or the Right to Starve

It's pretty Obvious from the above that the guys that want to save "democracy" from "fascism" have got a bum steer from the bosses and are going to do the bosses the favor of trying to save the WHOLE profit system with all its misery and exploitation for the millions of workers and colonial peoples against the JUST AND NECESSARY wrath of these oppressed.

But the fellows that have the second argument at least have a PART of the truth. Only instead of doing something about the fact that millions of youth are without jobs, etc., in the INTERESTS of these youth, these fellows are succumbing to the demoralization of this condition of rotten boss-class society and they are being trapped into helping the INTERESTS of the bosses to PERPETUATE AND EXTEND these miserable conditions.

Look around any street corner in a workers' neighborhood and you will see a dozen or so young fellows sitting idly on the steps without a thing to do. Or walk down any street in an industrial neighborhood in the morning and you will see others of our young workers with their newspapers under their arms waiting at a factory gate or being turned away by the inevitable "No Help Wanted" sign. No wonder some of us get disgusted and begin to think that we may just as well get into the bloodbath and have a little "adventure" before we get plugged in the interests of the bosses and their "No Help Wanted" system.

And then the rest of the youth - that "lucky" fifty or sixty percent who are working - at an average wage of twelve to fifteen dollars a week (not quite enough for Park Avenue penthouses) -- some of us who have spent the majority of our years getting an education and are now using this high school and college training to sling hash with greater finesse or turn gas pumps -- some think that the war will permit us to get nice soft jobs at decent wages. It certainly is true that the bosses are going to make many more millions in PROFITS from the war, but that doesn't mean wages are going up. Don't forget that all during the depression the DECISIVE section of the bosses in heavy industry have been making more profits all the time -- BUT WAGES HAVE CONSTANTLY BEEN LOWERED -- and "if you don't like it here I can always get another college man to take your \$12.00 job." And the war will intensify this process. Even though wages may rise a little, prices will always be six jumps ahead of them. And while the profit coffers of the bosses fill up as they speculate as to WHEN to enter the war and WHAT COLONIES they want to steal in it from their "enemy" bosses, the REAL LIVING STANDARDS OF THE WORKERS WILL NOT IMPROVE, even though they won't have to pay for the funerals of the millions who will be killed in the war to continue this whole boss system.

Turn the Bosses War for Profits Into a War
Against the Bosses Profit System

We could write for pages like this and pile statistics to the sky to prove every point. But most young workers who read it, we think,

will probably recognize from their own experience that it is true. So let's get busy and JUNK this boss class propaganda and ideas; let's spread far and wide to our buddies and pals and gal friends and boy friends that the fight between "democracy and fascism" is a fight about whether if you are unemployed you will be "permitted" to sit peaceably on a street corner in your hunger (the "democratic" way), or whether you will do forced labor building roads for the tanks to roll over (the "fascist" way). The young workers must unite to END these conditions of unemployment, low wages, exploitation and the bloody wars they breed; to struggle against this system of the bosses and its wars. In order to do this we must build the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE and the NEW COMMUNIST YOUTH INTERNATIONAL, to join with our fellow workers to turn the bosses war for profits into a war against the bosses' profit system and FOR a workers' society where the millions of youth will have full opportunity to utilize all their creative initiative for POSITIVE CONSTRUCTIVE ADVANCE.

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NOTES ON AMERICAN YOUTH

ALBERT CONWAY OF CHICAGO, an unemployed youth who said he was tired of living, tried three times to jump off a bridge. Each time he was stopped by a bridge tender. The fourth time he was arrested and locked up on a charge of disorderly conduct.....He will probably be drafted into the army.....where he can die the right way and for the right thing -- J.P. Morgan's profits...

THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY youth have been refused permission by Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, to go back to Scotland where they were studying medicine..Since most of these boys are Jewish, and "most American medical schools quietly limit their Jewish students to a relatively small number," according to the column, "Washington Merry Go-Round," these are 360 more youth who will soon join the bread line.... Push over, Jack and John and Fred -- there's more comin.'

FIVE NEGRO YOUTH were arrested in Alexandria, Virginia, for using the public library....Less than fifty miles from the American capital. Negro youth can't even use the library....

THE FOLLOWING LETTER in a Chicago newspaper speaks for itself: "My son is eighteen today. He was interviewed in a large Loop law office regarding a position. He stated in his application that he was graduated last June from a North Side high school, that he took a four-year commercial course, that he had enrolled in the Loyola School of Commerce (evenings) for further comprehensive study. He worked after school all through his four years of high school and often studied until three a.m. He made the honor roll the last year. The interview took place. He was advised to call back, only to be told he was too old and that the office had employed a younger boy. "Old" at 18! America, America!".....Someone should tell this mother.....present Mobilization Day plans, drawn up in 1931, call for drafting into the army ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO boys eighteen years old.....Uncle Sam will soon employ him as cannon fodder.

BEHIND THE CLOAK OF PEACE

With the war for the redivision of the world raging in Europe, the American bosses still try to give the impression that they are "peaceloving" and do not want war. This is in line with their whole past policy of attempting to fool the workers on this vital issue. But already authoritative sources like the Kiplinger letter point out that New Deal officials expect "war by January." And already Roosevelt has moved openly, behind the cloak of "preparedness," to increase the army, navy, air and marine corps. And it can be expected that this special session of Congress will pass bills that will still further increase the armed forces of the boss class.

In the whole past period the American Bosses have studiously tried to give the impression that, while all the countries of Europe were arming to the teeth, they had no desire for "aggression", and maintained only a small armed force. But if one analyzes the situation it immediately becomes apparent what their real plans are.

For example, the bosses say that they do not want aggression, that they are only interested in the "defense of the homeland." But leading Navy officials have always pointed out that Hawaii is "the first line of defense;" in line with this, the recent ruling of a 300 mile "protection area" on the high seas shows what the United States means by "defense" --- the defense of its cruelly exploited colonial territories (the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Panama, Virgin Islands, Cuba, etc.) as well as ALL of South America. The American bosses are now moving to completely exclude German trade there and also to squeeze out British competition in order that they can have all the profits for themselves. But while they claim they are only for "defense," look at their armed forces. The navy is almost on a par with that of Britain. According to military experts it certainly is capable SINGLEHANDED of defeating the combined navies of Germany, Italy and Japan. And now that Britain has bottled up the German navy it would seem that the United States has very little to worry about on this score. BUT ROOSEVELT IS MOVING TO DOUBLE THE NAVY. Can this be for "defense" therefore? Obviously not. Obviously, the doubling of the American navy to make it the strongest in the world can only be for the DRIVE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM TO RULE THE SEAS AGAINST ALL HER RIVALS, especially against Britain, her chief rival (despite the fact that she may march side by side with Britain against Germany and then dictate the "peace" terms, that is, get the lion's share of the loot of the world).

So if the navy as the first line of "defense" is being enlarged to rule the seas for an offensive drive it is apparent that American imperialism has far from peaceful ambitions.

The same thing is true of the army but in a cleverly concealed fashion. "Look," Wall Street says, "In Europe all the countries have millions of men in arms; but our army is less than 200,000. That

shows how peaceful we are." No, that shows how clever you are, gentlemen, but your aims are far from peaceful. In the first place since no "enemy" is in a position to defeat the American navy and land troops here, the present army is quite sufficient for the "defense" of continental America. But when the United States gets ready to invade Europe, then a quick transformation will occur. How? Because the U.S. army is organized around its officers' corps, with only a skeleton base. There is one active officer for every eleven to twelve privates. And there are over 115,000 RESERVE officers as constantly being enlarged through the ROTC in the high schools and colleges. On the basis of this officers' corps the United States could enact universal conscription to have 4,000,000 in ACTIVE service with a minimum of training within six or seven months. Within a year she could double this. And on the basis of the superior machine technique with large motorized and mechanized forces, The United States can and WILL build the MOST POWERFUL MILITARY MACHINE IN THE WORLD.

All the plans are ready; they lie in the War Department office. The recent moves of Roosevelt to enlarge the manpower of the army, navy, etc., are a feeler to test the reaction of the masses, and are the first steps to putting meat on the skeleton structure. They will be followed by still further moves; and then, when the United States bosses decide it is time for them to step in and gain the imperialist control of the WORLD --- THEN this officers' corps will sweep into action to train the millions of men who will be conscripted. And the army staff HAS ALREADY PREPARED PLANS FOR CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR THE REVOLUTIONISTS WHO WILL OPPOSE THE WAR, and even for the conscientious objectors. Just as "peaceful" as Adolph Hitler -- such are the Roosevelts and their army staff, acting in the interests of Wall Street.

Well, what are we going to do about it? FIRST, use these FACTS and others to tear the mask of "peace" from the Wall Street imperialists. EXPOSE THE WAR PLANS OF THE BOSS CLASS AND ITS GOVERNMENT! Second, agitate and organize against these war plans and the rotten capitalist system that causes them. BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT, BUILD THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE TO HELP FIGHT THE WAR PLANS OF THE BOSSES AND THEIR GOVERNMENT! Third, when war comes despite our active protest and workers' opposition, don't be a "conscientious objector" and sit in a concentration camp saying that "you don't like war and bloodshed." If the bosses have their way millions of men will be killed and blood shed IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PROFIT, PLUNDER AND LOOT OF THE CAPITALISTS. So, be a realist, recognize that the bosses want us to kill our fellow workers in other lands so that they can grab the loot of their fellow capitalists of other lands. TAKE THE GUNS THE BOSSES GIVE US; LET US LEARN HOW TO USE THEM; AND THEN, IN FRATERNIZATION AND UNITY WITH OUR FELLOW WORKERS OF OTHER LANDS WE MUST SAY, "THIS IS NOT OUR WAR; IT IS A WAR FOR THE PROFIT AND PLUNDER OF 'OUR' BOSSES. THE MAIN ENEMY IS NOT THE WORKER IN THE OPPOSITE TRENCH WHO IS EXPLOITED BY HIS BOSSES EVEN AS WE ARE BY OURS; THE MAIN ENEMY IS OUR OWN BOSS CLASS." AND THEN WE CAN STOP THE WAR! THEN WE CAN DESTROY THE BOSS SYSTEM THAT BREEDS IT AND BUILD A WORKERS' WORLD.

BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE

"I fought in the war for my country,
I went out to bleed and to die,
I thought that my country would help me,
But this was my country's reply:
'Soo-up, soo-up -- they gave me a bowl of soo-up!'"

The fire that is sweeping thruout Europe and which threatens to engulf the whole world has already consumed scores of thousands of young lives. With the continuation of this imperialist war, millions more will serve as cannon fodder for a system that offers nothing but insecurity and death as a future.

The world imperialists have allowed the war babies of yesteryear to grow up to the strength of shouldering rifles and throwing grenades at each other. For the past twenty years the bourgeoisie has plotted to use these young bodies for its exploiting purposes, and has by one method or another psychologized most of them toward accepting their fate.

Roosevelt in America, with his fake liberalism and slogans -- not without the aid of the Stalinists - has succeeded in militarizing millions of this country's youth for what he knows to be inevitable under his imperialist system. The millions of young unemployed disciplined by the army in the C.C.C., the training of 15,000 on N.Y.A. for military aviation, the expansion of the C.M.T.C., R.O.T.C. and National Guards agencies thruout the country, the feverish recruiting activity by the army and navy, the recent sham battles fought at Mannassas, Va. and Plattsburgh, N.Y. -- all these are part of Roosevelt's systematic campaign to prepare America's young generation for a new bosses' roast.

Indeed, one way or another "youth will be served!" If not by a workers' economy of production for use, then to the bowels of American imperialism's war machine. Either the young workers and students dynamite the decaying house of capitalism that is falling upon them with all their youthful energy and initiative -- or they will never see any future at all. Not "do and die," but DO OR DIE---that is how life itself presents the question. The Young Workers League sounds the call to action and points the way!

BOSSES WAR & YOUTH

Twenty-five years after the first bloodbath in which millions of workers were crippled, maimed and killed, more millions of workers are being herded into the trenches to die again for the profits of the bosses.

The drums are beating and the bugles are screaming once more to whip up the necessary patriotism of the world working class to slaughter each other. The placards bearing the slogans of the last world war are carefully dusted off and displayed in every country: "defend your national honor" -- "the glory of democracy" --- "a war to end all wars" - "the honor and glory of the flag."

Behind all this mockery and fakery is the constant drive of the bosses to plunder and rob at the expense of millions of lives.

Twenty-five Years of Hardship

In the twenty-five year period between the last world war and the present one, we the youth have withstood great hardship and suffering. We were deprived of an adequate education. We swelled the ranks of the unemployed. Our lot was one of misery and slow starvation. Those of us who were homeless and travelled in vain from one state to another in search of work were labelled vagrants and looked upon as undesirables. We were hounded day and night. The jails and reformatories are filled to capacity with those of us who refuse to accept our lot willingly.

Twenty-five millions of us are unemployed in this world. The warehouses are full to the bursting point while these millions go hungry. There are billions of dollars for guns, ammunition and explosives, but we of the working class are going hungry and naked.

Yesterday we were labelled by capitalism as vagrants, outcasts and undesirables. The police hounded and jailed us. Today we are being told to defend this very system.

Workers of the world, refuse to defend this system of starvation and mass murder! Refuse to shoot your brother across the trench! Unite with him and turn the guns against your main enemy - your "own" boss class! Turn the war of the bosses for profits into a war against the bosses and their profit system, a war for the proletarian revolution! For the emancipation of the world working class! Build the new communist (4th) international! Build the New Communist Youth International!

PEACE IS POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH

THE REVOLUTIONARY OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM



A "FREE" AMERICAN LABOR WILL
FIGHT TO MAKE THE WORLD
SAFE FOR "DEMOCRACY" ONCE AGAIN

